

## Remarks

### **A. *Specification***

The Office Action noted the use of trademarks in the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 28, and ending at page 10, line 9. This paragraph has been amended to remove the trademark symbols from the terms TEGADERM and OPSITE FLEXIGRID.

### **B. *Information Disclosure Statement***

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's recommendations and comments regarding the information disclosure statement (IDS). Applicants do not interpret the comments to suggest that Applicants are "cloaking . . . clearly relevant references"—any such suggestion would be false. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's recognition that Applicants have no duty to comment on the materiality of any reference, the Examiner's consideration of the references cited in the IDS, and the notation of such consideration on the IDS.

### **C. *Status of the Claims***

Claims 1-11 were pending prior to the Office Action mailed April 9, 2010. Independent claim 1 is amended to recite "at least one discrete opening extending through a top surface of the cover such that the at least one discrete opening is configured to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound." Independent claim 8 is amended to recite "wherein a majority of the generally continuous planar bottom surface is directly engaged with the top surface of the wound contactable layer such that the cover cooperates with the channels extending along the top surface of the wound contactable layer to define a plurality of passageways connecting each hole with the port" and "the cover configured to substantially prevent communication of negative pressure through the bottom surface of the cover." Independent claim 9 is amended to remove the phrase "and which are uncovered at the top

surface,” and to recite “the second plurality of discrete holes and the plurality of peripheral access channels configured to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound.” No new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 1-11 remain pending.

***D. Claims 1-11 Are Definite***

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

**1. “uncovered at the top surface”**

The Office states that independent claims 1 and 9 are “unclear/inconsistent” because the “the undermined portion of the wound covers the opening at the top surface.” Office Action at 4. Applicants respectfully disagree. The member is not claimed in the wound (the undermined portion of the wound does not even arguably cover the opening when not in a wound). Nevertheless, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to expedite prosecution. Claim 1 now recites “at least one discrete opening extending through a top surface of the cover such that the at least one discrete opening is configured to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound.” The phrase “uncovered at the top surface” has been removed from claim 9, which now recites “the second plurality of discrete holes and the plurality of peripheral access channels configured to communicate negative pressure directly to an undermined portion of the wound.” Applicants believe these amendments fully address this portion of the rejection.

**2. “substantially all of the generally planar bottom surface”**

The Office further states that “the description of ‘substantially all of’ the generally planar bottom surface directly engaging the top surface of the wound contactable layer on lines 11-12 but ‘cooperating with the channels extending along the top surface of the wound contactable

layer to define a plurality of passageways' on lines 12-13 is unclear/inconsistent." Action at 5. Applicants respectfully disagree. Nevertheless, claim 8 has been amended to recite wherein a majority of the generally continuous planar bottom surface is directly engaged with the top surface of the wound contactable layer such that the cover cooperates with the channels extending along the top surface of the wound contactable layer to define a plurality of passageways connecting each hole with the port." Applicants believe these amendments fully address this portion of the rejection.

### 3. "generally non-porous"

The Office further states that, with respect to claims 1 and 9, "the description of the cover as being 'generally non-porous' . . . but having 'at least one discrete opening extending through a top surface of the cover' is unclear/inconsistent." Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse.

The essential inquiry pertaining to this requirement is whether the claims set out and circumscribe a particular subject matter with a reasonable degree of clarity and particularity. Definiteness of claim language must be analyzed, not in a vacuum, but in light of:"

- (A)The content of the particular application disclosure;
- (B)The teachings of the prior art; and
- (C)The claim interpretation that would be given by one possessing the ordinary level of skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made.

MPEP §2173.02. Under each of the considerations *required by the MPEP*, the Office's interpretation of "generally non-porous" is unreasonable.

First, the contents of the present application clearly support the definiteness of "generally non-porous." The background section discusses the *porous* materials of the prior art:

- at page 1, lines 15-16: "a *porous* packing may be provided under the cover to fill the space in which the vacuum is formed (emphasis added);"
- at page 1, lines 23-28: "As shown, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 5,645,081 . . . Fig. 1 of the '081 patent discloses an *open cell polyester foam* section covering the wound (emphasis added);"

And the specification and originally filed claims make clear that “generally non-porous” is distinct from the porous foams and gauze of the prior art:

- at page 3, lines 4-12: “The member may further include a plurality of discrete holes . . . . The member may be formed from a *generally non-porous* material (emphasis added);”
- at page 5, lines 15-27: “As shown in Fig. 4, *access openings* include both access channels 62 and *access holes* 64 . . . Referring now to Fig. 4, member 19, layer 20, cover 22, and connector 23 are each made of a medical grade silicone or other type of pliable elastomer. . . . It is within the scope of this disclosure, however, to include a member made of any type of thin, flexible material *that is non-porous and non-foam-like* (emphasis added);” and
- at originally filed claims 1 and 6: “a plurality of discrete holes . . . at least one discrete opening” (claim 1), and “wherein the member is formed from a generally non-porous material” (claim 6).

The specification and original claims use “generally non-porous” to describe the member material—even though it includes one or more holes and/or openings. Thus, the Office’s interpretation is precluded by the specification that *must* guide the interpretation of the claims.

Second, the prior art uses “porous” to describe foam and gauze. *See, e.g.,* Present Application at p. 1, ll. 10-28 (discussing porous packing of prior art and listing U.S. Pat. No. 5,648,081 as an example with “polyester foam”); Risk ‘807 at col. 10, ll. 35-37 (“porous packing 618 . . . is typically a gauze material”). This interpretation is consistent with relevant technical definitions of “porous.” For example, the MCGRAW-HILL DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS, FIFTH EDITION defines “porous” as “1. *Filled* with pores. 2. Capable of *absorbing* liquids.” Appendix 1 at 1549 (emphasis added). Foam is porous; gauze is porous—both are “filled with pores.” Neither foam nor gauze can be described as “generally non-porous.” Further, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a “generally non-porous” cover is generally not “capable of absorbing liquids.” *See, e.g.,* Appendix 1 at 7 (defining “absorb” as “[t]o take up a substance in bulk”).

Third, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have no difficulty discerning the meaning of the claim. The Office must consider “the totality of all the limitations of the claim and their interaction with each other.” *In re Larson*, No. 01-1092 (May 9, 2001) (citing *Radio Steel & Mfg. Co. v. MTD Prods., Inc.*, 731 F.2d 840, 845, 221 USPQ 657, 661 (Fed. Cir. 1984)). The totality of the claims supports the definiteness of “generally non-porous.” For example, “generally non-porous” clearly does not require *entirely* non-porous. Further, claim 1 recites a “at least one *discrete* opening extending through a top surface of the cover” (emphasis added). The MCGRAW-HILL DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS, FIFTH EDITION defines “discrete” as “1. Composed of *separate and distinct* parts. 2. Having an *individually distinct* identity.” Appendix 1 at 589 (emphasis added). A person of ordinary skill in the art would thus understand “at least one *discrete* opening” to be different than one of the ill-defined and innumerable pores of foam or gauze. By way of illustration, a block of foam is porous, but a block of steel is generally non-porous. Even if one or more *discrete* holes are drilled in the block of steel, a person of ordinary skill in the art would still understand the block of steel to be “generally non-porous.” This is all section 112, second paragraph, requires.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 9, and therefore dependent claims 2-7 and 10-11 which depend therefrom, are definite. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

#### ***D. Claim Language Interpretation***

Applicant believes the foregoing remarks with respect to the indefiniteness rejections fully address the Office’s concerns regarding the interpretation of “generally non-porous.”

With respect to “generally continuous planar bottom surface,” the Office states:

Due to the lack of clarity discussed *supra*, claim 8, lines 11-12 will be interpreted to require a generally continuous bottom surface with no projections extending

directly therefrom which extends between an outer perimeter of the cover and some portion thereof is directly engaged with the top surface of the wound layer.

The Office's interpretation is again unreasonable. The phrase "generally continuous planar bottom surface" is clear on its face; there is no need to re-write it as the Office has done.

#### ***E. Claims 1-11 Are Novel***

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Risk Jr. et al. (6,755,807, hereinafter referred to as Risk '807), and "thereby, by incorporation," Lockwood et al. (6,685,681, hereinafter referred to as Lockwood '681). Office Action at 6. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse.

##### **1. Independent claims 1 and 9**

As the Office is aware, anticipation requires a single reference that disclose *all elements of a claim*. Neither Risk '807 nor Lockwood '681 discloses all elements of independent claims 1, 8, and 9, nor of dependent claims 2-7 and 10-11. Even if the packing 618 of Risk '807 (see FIG. 9) is equated to the cover recited in any of claims 1, 8, and 9, Risk '807 simply does not disclose or suggest that the packing 618 could have the claimed characteristics. "[S]ide 612 of bandage member 604 faces wound 300, and side 610 faces a *porous* packing 618 . . . Packing 618 is typically a *gauze material*." Col. 10, ll. 33-37 (emphasis added). But independent claims 1 and 9, as amended, recite "a *generally non-porous* cover coupled to the wound contactable layer." Risk '807 explicitly discloses a *porous* packing, and thus does not and cannot disclose a *generally non-porous* packing, as recited in independent claims 1 and 9. Common sense dictates that Risk's "porous packing" (e.g., gauze) *cannot* be *generally non-porous*.

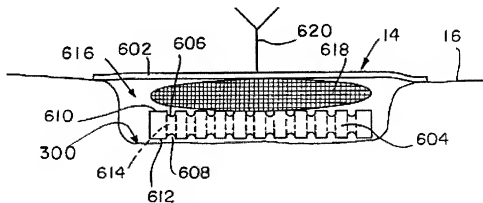
##### **2. Independent claim 8**

At the outset, the rejection of claim 8 does not even address the claimed feature: "outer portions of the channels extending between an outer edge of the cover and an outer edge of the

wound contactable layer defining a plurality of peripheral access channels configured to communicate negative pressure to an undermined portion of the wound.” The rejection is therefore insufficient as a matter of law because it fails to address every feature of the claim.

Independent claim 8 recites “a cover coupled to the wound contactable layer and having a generally *continuous planar* bottom surface” (emphasis added). FIG. 9 of Risk ‘807 shows that packing 618 does not have a “generally continuous planar bottom surface”—as required by the claim. The Office’s interpretation of this phrase is unreasonable. All five words must be given effect: (1) *generally*; (2) *continuous*; (3) *planar*; (4) *bottom*; (5) *surface*.

For example, the dictionary cited by the Office, Merriam-Webster Online, defines “continuous” as “marked by *uninterrupted* extension in space, time, or sequence.” Appendix 2 (emphasis added). The porous packing 618 (e.g., “typically a gauze material”) of Risk ‘807 explicitly does not have a “generally continuous planar bottom surface.” Instead, a porous material like gauze is, by its very nature, discontinuous.



Relevant Portion of FIG. 9 of Risk ‘807

Additionally, claim 8 has been amended to recite “the cover configured to substantially prevent communication of negative pressure through the bottom surface of the cover.”

Regardless of the claim language interpretation, **porous** packing 18 does not substantially prevent communication of negative pressure through a bottom surface.

Further, neither reference discloses "outer portions of the channels extending between an outer edge of the cover and an outer edge of the wound contactable layer defining a plurality of peripheral access channels configured to communicate negative pressure to an undermined portion of the wound."

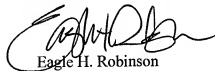
Neither Risk '807 nor Lockwood '681 discloses every element of the present claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

#### Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing remarks fully respond to all outstanding matters for this application.

Should the Examiner desire to sustain any of the rejections discussed in relation to this Response, the courtesy of a telephonic conference between the Examiner, the Examiner's supervisor, and the undersigned attorney at 512-536-3083 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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# McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms

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Sybil P. Parker

Editor in Chief

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On the cover: Photomicrograph of crystals of vitamin B.  
(Dennis Kunkel, University of Hawaii)

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standard

a point fixed on  
of celestial point,  
measurement in a  
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distance of a preferred

ordinates; replaced in

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a ratio of the weight of

am at a given tempera-

water in a vacuum at a

lit, 'ab-

absolute stereochemistry See absolute configuration. ('ab-

lit, 'ab-

absolute stereoscopic parallax [a:stə'skɒpɪk] Considering a

pair of aerial photographs of equal principal distance, the ab-

solute stereoscopic parallax of a point is the algebraic difference

of the distances of the two images from their respective photo-

graph nadirs, measured in a horizontal plane and parallel to the

air base. Also known as absolute parallax; horizontal parallax;

air base. ('ab-

lateral parallax; parallax; stereoscopic parallax; x-parallax.

('ab-

absolute stop [tʃv ɒn] A railway signal which indicates that

the train must make a full stop and not proceed until there

is a change in the signal. Also known as stop and stay. ('ab-

lit, 'ab-

absolute system of units [pɪzɪs] A set of units for measuring

physical quantities, defined by interrelated equations in terms

of arbitrary fundamental quantities of length, mass, time, and

charge or current. ('ab-

absolute temperature [tɪmperə'tʃə] 1. The temperature measur-

able in theory on the thermodynamic temperature scale. 2.

The temperature in Celsius degrees relative to the absolute zero

at -273.15°C (the Kelvin scale) or in Fahrenheit degrees rela-

tive to the absolute zero at -459.67°F (the Rankine scale).

('ab-

absolute temperature scale [tɪmperə'tʃə] The scale with which

temperatures are measured relative to absolute zero. Also

known as absolute scale. ('ab-

absolute term See constant term. ('ab-

absolute threshold [tɪʃəld] The minimum stimulus energy

that an organism can detect. ('ab-

absolute time [tʃaɪm] Geologic time measured in years, as

determined by radioactive decay of elements. ('ab-

absolute unit [juːt] (PIERS) A unit defined in terms of units of

fundamental quantities such as length, time, mass, and charge

or current. ('ab-

absolute vacuum [vækjuːm] Avoid completely empty of matter.

Also known as perfect vacuum. ('ab-

absolute value Also known as magnitude. [mæθɪrɪ] 1. For a

real number, the number if it is nonnegative, and the negative

of the number if it is negative. Also known as numerical value.

2. For a complex number, the square root of the sum of the

squares of its real and imaginary parts. Also known as modu-

lus. 3. The length of a vector, disregarding its direction; the

square root of the sum of the squares of its orthogonal com-

ponents. ('ab-

absolute-value computer [kəmputɜː] A computer that

processes the values of the variables rather than their increments.

('ab-

absolute vector [vɛktə] In computer graphics, a vector

whose end points are given in absolute coordinates. ('ab-

absolute velocity [vɛləsɪtɪ] The vector sum of the velocity of

a fluid parcel relative to the earth and the velocity of the parcel

due to the earth's rotation; the east-west component is the only

one affected. ('ab-

absolute viscosity [rɪ, mɪʃ] The tangential force per unit

area of two parallel plates at unit distance apart when the space

between them is filled with a fluid and one plate moves with

unit velocity in its own plane relative to the other. Also known

as coefficient of viscosity. ('ab-

absolute volume [vɒljuːm] The total volume of the particles in

a granular material, including both permeable and impermeable

voids but excluding spaces between particles. ('ab-

absolute vorticity [fɔːtɪsɪtɪ] The vorticity of a fluid relative to

an absolute coordinate system; especially, the vorticity of the

atmosphere relative to axes not rotating with the earth. ('ab-

absolute wavelength [wɛvlɛŋθ] A type of wavelength

in which the frequency of an injected radio-frequency voltage

is determined by measuring the length of a resonant line. ('ab-

absolute weighing [wɛɪtɪŋ] Determination of the mass of a

sample and expressing its value in units, fractions, and multiples

of the mass of the prototype of the international kilogram. ('ab-

absolute zero [tʃiːrɒ] The temperature of -273.15°C, or

-459.67°F, or 0 K, thought to be the temperature at which

molecular motion vanishes and a body would have no heat

energy. ('ab-

absorb [æbsɔːb] To take up a substance in bulk.

[ɪləktromæɡ] To take up energy from radiation. [pɪzɪs] To

take up matter or radiation. ('ab-

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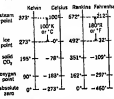
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## ABSOLUTE TEMPERATURE



Comparisons of Kelvin, Celsius, Rankine, and Fahrenheit temperature scales. Temperatures are rounded off to nearest degree.

Temperatures Very Low and Very High, Van Nostrand, 1964.

conduct with respect to time

for switching a capacitor made to a load through which it can lamp in which light is produced in electrodes in a gas (or vapor) known as an electric-discharge lamp. [dis'chāj, lamp] High-pressure mercury vapor lamp through which discharge through the standpipe on chāj, lamp

Liquid that has passed through known as effluent; product

a) A method of printing is used to produce characters on a previously dyed fabric in a pattern. [dis'chāj, print]

agitated column which encased aluminum coating lay, used a static. [dis'chāj, print]

encased enclosure containing which current can flow when two metal electrodes in the charge tube. [sēnch'āj, print] A water is released into a boiler

[sēnch'āj, print] A device which detects the glass tube attached to the of leaked gas is indicated by ge. [dis'chāj, tube] 1b. A stripping agent such as sodium sox dyes from fabric that has [chāj, print]

A support built over, and not over, such as a wooden list, is known as relieving arch, turbulence in the consciousness

us with enlarged, disklike results

[dis'kwa, form] 1. A family of inarticulate brachiopods [dis'kwa, form]

community that includes fossils of the natural climax by humans down as disturbance climax.

ococcoliths. [dis'kwa, form] A family of brachiopods [dis'kwa, form]

of brachiopods with eight rays solid sponges. [dis'kwa, form]

Having rounded disks on the surface formed from a blasto-

A family of annular amphibians Ophichthosoma. [dis'kwa, form]

and circular in form. 2. Any [dis'kwa, form]

A type of cleavage producing [dis'kwa, form]

of extinct conifer or globe the order Heterocypselus distichal skeletal partitions.

ivalent name for Leconacanth. tropical fog beetles, a family

of coleopteran insects in the superfamily Cucujoidea. [dis'kwa, form]

discomfort glare See glare. [dis'kwa, form]

discomfort index See temperature-humidity index. [dis'kwa, form]

discompositio [NUCLEO] The process in which an atom is knocked out of its position in a crystal lattice by direct nuclear impact, as by fast neutrons or by fast ions that have been previously knocked out of their lattice positions. [dis'kwa, form]

discompositio effect [NUCLEO] Changes in physical or chemical properties of a substance caused by discompositio. Also known as Wigner effect. [dis'kwa, form]

Discomycoetes [MYCO] A group of fungi in the class Ascomycetes in which the surface of the fruiting body is exposed during maturation of the spores. [dis'kwa, form]

discone antenna [ELECTROMAG] A biconical antenna in which one of the cones is spread out to 180° to form a disk; the center conductor of the coaxial line terminates at the center of the disk, and the cable shield terminates at the vertex of the cone. [dis'kwa, form]

discontinuity [ELECTRO] A discontinuity between parallel beds or strata. [dis'kwa, form]

disconnection [ELECTRO] To open a circuit by removing wires or connections, as distinguished from opening a switch to stop current flow. [dis'kwa, form]

disconnected set [MATH] A set in a topological space that is the union of two nonempty sets A and B for which both the intersection of the closure of A with B and the intersection of the closure of B with A are empty. [dis'kwa, form]

disconnected fitting [ELECTRO] An electrical connection that can be disconnected without tools. [dis'kwa, form]

disconnecting switch [ELECTRO] A switch that isolates a circuit or piece of electrical apparatus after interruption of the current. Also known as disconnect. [dis'kwa, form]

disconnecter See disconnecting switch. [dis'kwa, form]

disconnector release [ELECTRO] Device which disengages the apparatus used in a telephone connection to restore it to its original condition when not in use. [dis'kwa, form]

discontinuity [ELECTROMAG] An abrupt change in the shape of a waveguide. Also known as waveguide discontinuity. [dis'kwa, form]

[ELECTRO] An interruption in sedimentation. 2. A surface that separates unrelated groups of rocks. [dis'kwa, form]

A boundary at which the velocity of seismic waves changes sharply. [dis'kwa, form]

A point at which a function is not continuous. [dis'kwa, form]

The place where the structural nature of a weldment is interfered with because of the materials involved or where the mechanical, physical, or metallurgical aspects are not homogeneous. [dis'kwa, form]

A break in the continuity of a medium or material at which a reflection of wave energy can occur. [dis'kwa, form]

discontinuous amplifier [ELECTRO] Amplifier in which the input waveform is reproduced on some type of averaging basis. [dis'kwa, form]

discontinuous coding sequence [MOLO] The coding sequence in deoxyribonucleic acid of eukaryotic split genes consisting of exons and introns. [dis'kwa, form]

discontinuous construction [BUILD] A building in which there is no solid connection between the rooms and the building structure or between different sections of the building; the design thus to reduce the transmission of noise. [dis'kwa, form]

discontinuous phase See disperse phase. [dis'kwa, form]

discontinuous precipitation [MET] Precipitation principally at and away from the grain boundaries in a supersaturated solid solution; diffusion patterns show two lattice parameters, the solute in solution and the precipitate. [dis'kwa, form]

discontinuous reaction series [GEO] The branch of Bowen's reaction series that includes olivine, pyroxene, amphibole, and biotite; each change in the series represents an abrupt change in phase. [dis'kwa, form]

discontinuous yielding [MET] The nonuniform plastic deformation of a metal along the length strained in tension. [dis'kwa, form]

discooidous [ASTRO] Having a disk-shaped foot. [dis'kwa, form]

Discorbacea [INV ZOO] A superfamily of foraminiferan protozoans in the suborder Rotulina characterized by a radial, poriferous, calcareous test and a monolamellar septa. [dis'kwa, form]

discord See dissonance. [dis'kwa, form]

discordance [GEO] An unconformity characterized by lack of parallelism between strata which touch without fusion. [dis'kwa, form]

discordant pluton [GEO] An intrusive igneous body that cuts across the bedding or foliation of the intruded formations. [dis'kwa, form]

DISCOS See disturbance compensation system. [dis'kwa, form]

discount [FIN] A reduction from the gross amount, price, or value. [dis'kwa, form]

discount factor [FIN] The ratio of the present worth of one or a series of future payments to the total undiscounted amount of such future payments. Also known as average discount factor, deferral factor, present-worth factor. [dis'kwa, form]

discovery [MIN] Finding of a valuable mineral deposit. [dis'kwa, form]

discovery claim [MIN] The first claim for the finding of a mineral deposit. [dis'kwa, form]

discovery vein [MIN] The vein in which a mining claim is based. [dis'kwa, form]

discovery well [PETRO] A successful exploration well. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete [ELECTRO] 1. Composed of separate and distinct parts. 2. Having an individually distinct identity. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete address beacon system See Mode S.

discrete comparator See digital comparator. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete film zone See belt of soil solution. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete radio source [ASTRO] A source of radio waves coming from a small area of the sky. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete sampling [STAT] Sampling in which the individual samples are of such long duration that the frequency response of the channel is not deteriorated by the sampling process. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete set [MATH] A set with no cluster points. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete sound system [ENG] A quadraphonic sound system in which the four input channels are preserved as four discrete channels during recording and playback processes; sometimes referred to as a 4-4-4 system. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete spectrum [PHYS] A spectrum in which the component wavelengths constitute a discrete sequence of values rather than a continuum of values. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete system [CONT] A control system in which signals at one or more points may change only at discrete values of time. Also known as discrete-time system. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete-time system See discrete system. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete transfer function See pulsed transfer function. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete variable [MATH] A variable for which the possible values form a discrete set. [dis'kwa, form]

discrete-word intelligibility [ACOUST] The percent of intelligibility obtained when the speech units under consideration are words, usually presented so as to minimize the contextual relation between them. [dis'kwa, form]

discretization error [MATH] The error in the numerical calculation of an integral that results from using an approximate expression for the true mathematical function to be integrated. [dis'kwa, form]

discriminant [MATH] 1. The quantity  $b^2 - 4ac$ , where  $a, b, c$  are coefficients of a given quadratic polynomial:  $ax^2 + bx + c$ . 2. More generally, for the polynomial equation  $a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_0 = 0$ ,  $a_n \neq 0$ ,  $\Delta$  is the product of the squares of all the differences of the roots of the equation, taken in pairs. [dis'kwa, form]

discriminant function [STAT] A linear combination of a set of variables that will distinguish events or items for which the variables are measured with the smallest possible proportion of misclassifications. [dis'kwa, form]

discrimination [ACOUST] 1. In frequency-modulated systems, the detection or demodulation of the imposed variations

## DISCONE ANTENNA



A high-frequency disccone antenna.

## DISCORBACEA

Scanning electron micrograph of *Siphonina* from upper Eocene of Mississippi, (R. B. Heckman, Chevron Oil Field Research Co.)





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## continuous

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Main Entry: **con·tin·u·ous** *ⓘ*

Pronunciation: *kən-'tin-yū-əs*

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Latin *continuus*, from *continere* to hold together — more at **CONTAIN**

Date: 1673

1 : marked by uninterrupted extension in space, time, or sequence

2 of a function : having the property that the absolute value of the numerical difference between the value at a given point and the value at any point in a neighborhood of the given point can be made as close to zero as desired by choosing the neighborhood small enough

**synonyms** see **CONTINUAL**

— *con·tin·u·ous·ly* *adverb*

— *con·tin·u·ous·ness* *noun*

Where Did  
"Hip Hop"  
Get Its Name?



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### Pronunciation Symbols

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